



DCFS Latino Advisory Council

December 16, 2020

9:00am – 1:00pm

WebEx

Chair-Person:

Nancy Rodriguez

Past Chair-Person:

Juanita Calderon

Chair-Elect:

Julia Monzon

Scribe:

Evelyn Martinez
Vanessa Castro

DCFS Members:

Coty Corcoles
Jose Garcia
Sydney Juarez
Azalea Mejia
Beatriz Ramirez
Liliana Romero

POS Members:

Patricia Aguilar
Jennifer Contreras
Daizy Salgado
Cynthia Valentin

Ex-officio Members:

Jose J. Lopez, OLS

Director's Liason:

Daniel Fitzgerald
Affirmative Action

Committees:

Child Safety and
Permanency

Community Risk
Reduction and
Staffing

Data validity and
Disproportionality

Strategic
Communications

Latino Family
Institute

Professional Development
Day

POS (Ad Hoc)

Approved Minutes

Present: Nancy Rodriguez, Evelyn Martinez, Jose Lopez, Yeni Rojas, Jennifer Contreras, Jose Garcia, Azalea Mejia, Patricia Aguilar, Liliana Romero, Beatriz Ramirez

Excused: Julia Monzon, Sydney Juarez, Coty Corcoles, Vanessa Castro, Juanita Calderon, Dennis Delgado, Daniel Fitzgerald

Guests: Nancy Rodriguez (CPS Cook), Richard Echevarria, Anabel Michal, Zachary Zuniga (NYAP)

A. Welcome

Participants were welcomed, everyone introduced themselves.

B. Review & Approval of November 2020 Minutes

The November 2020 Minutes were reviewed, amended and approved by majority of votes.

C. Committee Reports-tabled due to time needed for review of bylaws

- Child Safety & Permanency
- Community Risk Reduction & Staffing-Jose Garcia reported he has resigned as chair of this committee.
- Data Validity and Disproportionality
- Strategic Communications
- POS

D. Affirmative Action Reports – Jose Lopez reported the Department is seeking to hire from outside; these candidates have some challenges in that they should actually be submitting the job posting with the application; recommendation was made to provide proper steps on how to apply for DCFS jobs if you are applying from the outside. A degree in criminal justice is now acceptable for applicants seeking a DCFS job. Mr. Lopez reported DHS hires the most Latinos out of any State agency. DCFS bars college degrees that COA bars as well. There were 27 candidates-among these there were intern positions for Northern region; option 1 and 2. 3 out of the 27 candidates were bilingual intern interviews.

Anabel Michal talked about how the requirements for the position of ACR reviewer require prior supervisory experience but the position salary is not commensurate with that of PSA. Mr. Lopez said he would continue to address this.

- E. Bylaws Review and Vote:** Bylaws were reviewed and read but not completed. Among different things reviewed, questions were raised about special meetings and whether any thing could be voted on; committee changes including collapsing two committees: "Child Safety and Permanency" and "Community Risk Reduction and Staffing" due to sharing similar goals. Nancy agreed to make the updates to the written document and share with members for next meeting. Since the review of the bylaws was incomplete, no vote was taken on this reading.
- A. Old Business:** Retreat Planning-a discussion was held about ideas on how to run this event. Ideas included ice breakers, requesting Sherry Cobbins to facilitate vision casting and expanding on workshop presented at annual conference.
- B. New Business:** Open Forum
- C. Next Meeting – LAC Retreat 1/20/21**

Scribe: Evelyn Martinez